

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOL. XXIII. NO. 50.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1905

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

TAXES AND VALUATIONS.

TOWN OFFICIALS TALK ABOUT A LOWER TAX RATE AND PROPERTY OWNERS ABOUT LOWER VALUATIONS.

Appropriations Must Be Increased for Certain Purposes—The Council Can Keep Down Taxes by Transferring Some of Its Independent Resources to the Appropriations Accounts Like Newark Does.

Members of the Town Council have expressed a desire to see the tax rate lowered several points this fiscal year. Numerous property owners are anxious to see real property valuations cut down this year. It is obvious that it is impossible to lower both the tax rate and the valuations in one and the same year. The strange contrast with the desire for lower taxes is the disposition manifested towards increased public expenditures.

It is claimed that the schools need more money, the fire department must have increased funds, the public lighting system will have to be extended, and more money is needed for road repairs. The above enumerated increased expenditures are more or less supported by public sentiment. The public schools, it is argued, have been held down close in a financial way for two years past, and a point has been reached where the school fund must be increased in order to provide for an increase in pupils and a need for additional teachers.

The School Board asks for \$3,500 more than last year. There is a strong sentiment in town in favor of granting the increase.

Great changes have taken place in the fire department during the year, and it is asserted that the department is being placed on a better and much improved basis, but at the same time the improvements will necessitate an increased cost of maintenance of the department and the fire appropriation must be increased by at least \$1,500, perhaps \$2,000.

There is said to be need of considerable work in road repairs now, and it is estimated that \$20,000 more will be asked for in the line of repair work on the roads.

It may be that \$500 additional will meet the requirements of the street lighting department.

It is estimated that there will be a total increase in expenditures of about \$10,000 over last year.

With the changes in valuations the increased expenditures will make a difference of about twenty points in the tax rate, if the entire increase is placed in the tax levy and it is made incumbent upon the Board of Assessors to adjust valuations to provide for the increase.

There is of course a natural increase in valuations, but at the same time there is also a loss to be considered. The exempt property in the town has been increased by the purchase of fire-house sites. Some buildings have been destroyed by fire, and some have been torn down, and reductions in valuations made by the Commissioners of Appeal must be considered.

In the face of increased public needs it is not very easy to see how the members of the Council are going to carry out their desire for a lower tax rate, if the total amount of the increase is ordered assessed upon property this year.

The Council has at its command financial resources of a considerable amount that are independent of the tax levy. If the increased expenditures can be provided for from that source, then there is hope of a lower tax rate, but not otherwise.

The City of Newark has a method of keeping down the tax rate that the local Town Council might follow to good effect. City Auditor Forman thus explained it to the Newark Board of Trade Wednesday night.

"A peculiar condition existed in the year 1904. The finance committee of the Common Council which is charged with the duty of preparing the annual tax ordinance was very desirous, as all financial committees have always been, to keep the tax rate down to the lowest possible point. Each item of the appropriation was scrutinized with the greatest care. Careful review of all the outside revenues of the city was taken, and the finance committee decided to appropriate \$145,000 from the unexpended balances and other surpluses for the reduction of the tax levy. This was done, and the tax rate was reduced from \$2.32 to \$2.27. Now, in 1905, there will be no special surpluses and unexpended balances from which to draw to relieve the taxpayer, and the natural increase of the city's needs will render it necessary for the tax levy in 1905 to be increased over that of 1904 by about \$250,000.

Musical Instructions.
Mrs. Helen Clark Hummel, graduate of Stern's Conservatory, Berlin, will receive pupils in piano and singing, 65 Park Avenue, Bloomfield, N. J., 4-6.

Seed potatoes and fertilizers at Frommel Bros.—4-6.

Serious Accident.

The cyclonic blow that preceded the thunder storm that passed over this town about six o'clock Monday evening, did considerable damage and occasioned some narrow escapes from loss of life. Henry Spear of Montgomery street had just passed by a large elm tree in Franklin street when a large rotten limb fell from the tree to the sidewalk. Other cases of narrow escapes from injury from falling tree limbs were reported. The most serious accident resulting from the storm was in Liberty street at the home of Charles L. Douglass the shoe dealer, when Mr. Douglass and his four-year-old son Raymond, narrowly escaped being killed by the falling of a part of the wall of the old library building now being torn down.

The risks that have been taken in the work of taking down the library building has been a matter of critical comment and fears of accidents have been prevalent.

The wall that fell before the force of the wind Monday evening was the west wall of the building. It was about thirty feet high and had been weakened by the removal of the supporting beams inside. Foreman Hamblen and his men had just left when the accident occurred. Mr. Douglass had come home to dinner and as usual his little boy ran to the side door to meet him. The child had hold of his father's hand and Mr. Douglass glanced up at the wall and saw that it was tottering. The wind was almost a gale at that moment. For a second he was transfixed with horror and then he tried to leap through the door of a small shed leading into the basement of his house.

As he did so the mass of bricks and mortar descended upon them. Mr. Douglass was hurled through the doorway into the basement, while his little one was torn from his hands and buried beneath a quantity of brick.

Douglass got up as quickly as he could, and with the aid of others, who were attracted to the scene by the noise of the crash, threw the bricks one side, and found little Raymond semi-conscious and bleeding from several severe cuts on his nose and forehead. At first it was thought the child was dead, but Dr. William H. White who was summoned, said the child would live unless unforeseen complications set in. Little Raymond is also suffering considerably from shock.

Douglass was badly bruised on the legs. A pear tree which stood near the wall broke the force of the falling mass and probably saved the lives of both father and son.

The house which is owned by Mrs. John Oakes, of Lincoln street, Glen Ridge, was slightly damaged. People are now afraid that the south wall, which is still standing, may fall and crush in the home of Robert W. Gardner. Foreman Hamblen, however, says there is no danger and that he will push the wall in as soon as possible.

Watseasing M. E. Church.

At the Watseasing M. E. Church tomorrow the new pastor, the Rev. S. Trevenna Jackson, will preach his first sermon to his new charge. His morning subject will be "A High Resolve." In the evening his subject will be "Immortality of a Good D-e-d."

The Rev. Mr. Jackson comes to Watseasing M. E. Church from Perth Amboy, where he had a very successful pastorate. He is a young man, and with a promising future, and the Watseasing Church people are much pleased with his appointment to their church.

The service in the Watseasing Church on Easter Sunday night will be devoted to music, with a short sermon by the new pastor, Rev. S. T. Jackson. The choir of 45 voices and full orchestra will render the following programme: Prelude, Andante (orchestra), Haydn. Dankgebet, choir and orchestra with organ, Krenner.

Andante Lento, with flute solo, Giuck, Miss Anna L. Barber.

42nd Psalm, Mendelssohn, choir, orchestra and organ.

This Psalm while not a long one is among Mendelssohn's most beautiful works, and many musicians place it among his best productions. The opening number "As the Hart Pants," is a chorus of great beauty and is followed by a woman's chorus with soprano obligato.

A soprano solo and mixed chorus follow. No. 6, is a noble male chorus with soprano obligato.

The final chorus "Trust then in God," is a fugue number presenting many difficulties and is usually omitted, but judging from past performances of the chorus this number as well as the whole should be well rendered. The soprano soloist is Mrs. Henry Albison.

Illustrated Lecture.

The final meeting of the current season of the Berkeley School Neighborhood Club will be held in the School Assembly Hall on Thursday evening, April 27, when an illustrated lecture will be given by Charles F. Koerber of the Board of Education, and entitled "A Vacation Trip Through Holland and Germany."

BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Telephone Company Will Put Wire Underground—Initial Move for Another Fire Company in the Borough—Property Owners Ordered to Repair Sidewalks—A Vicious Dog the Cause of Complaints.

The New York and New Jersey Telephone Company made application to the Glen Ridge Borough Council on Monday night for permission to open streets in order that the borough fire alarm system wire could be placed under ground.

The telephone company has the contract to care for the fire alarm system.

Mayor Brewer asked the representative of the telephone company if the granting of the request would result in removal of all the company's poles from the streets, and said that an ordinance was passed about a year ago requiring all the wires to be put under ground and the removal of the poles, but it had never been enforced, on account of the borough fire alarm wires being strung on some of the company's poles. "But now, when the telephone company has a contract to keep in order the borough fire alarm I see no reason why the ordinance should not be complied with," he added.

On motion of Councilman White permission was given the telephone company to make the street openings requested, providing such permission does not conflict in any way with the removal of poles, as provided for by ordinance 110 of the borough ordinances.

The initial step in a movement that is likely to develop another fire company in the borough was taken Monday night, when Chief Smith of the fire department submitted the request of some citizens in the southern end of the borough that a "jumper" and 500 feet of hose be procured in that part of the town, and that they would procure quarters for it, and in case of necessity would respond to alarms in that immediate vicinity.

These citizens, said the chief, do not wish to be treated or recognized as firemen, but are anxious to protect their own and their neighbors' property. The "jumper," he said, is not now used by the fire company, and he recommended that the request be complied with. The matter was referred to the fire committee. The chief also asked for the purchase of two additional signal boxes, one to be placed at Ridgewood avenue and Appleton place, and the other in the northern section of the borough at a place to be decided on. The matter was referred to the fire committee.

Stephen Vogel's application for the position of Superintendent of Public Works in the borough occasioned some surprise in political circles there. The position is now and has been held by Peter Farley since the office was created. Mr. Farley has been ill for some time, but as he has always faithfully performed his duties, it is not likely that a change will be made in the office until absolutely necessary.

Important action was taken in regard to sidewalk repairs by instructing the clerk to send a circular letter to property owners requesting them to give immediate attention to defects in the sidewalk in front of their properties and raise sunken flag stones and replace broken ones.

On motion of Councilman Bristol, the Mayor and clerk were authorized to execute a note for \$1,000, payable at the bank of Montclair, bearing interest at the rate of 4% per cent, the proceeds to be used for several borough purposes.

Councilman Bristol recommended the purchase of a piece of ground for park purposes from Vincenzo Nicastro, the purchase price not to exceed \$400. The land in question is a portion of the Nicastro property that will remain after the alteration in the lines of Baldwin street and Highland avenue, where the new bridge is to be placed over the Greenwood Lake branch of the Erie Railroad.

An alleged vicious dog, owned by Vincent A. Ryan of Ridgewood avenue came in for considerable official attention on account of the numerous complaints about the animal made to the Borough Police Recorder William E. Smith, who asked the council for advice as to the method of procedure, as there appeared to be no statute law upon the subject.

Chief of Police Brown testified that numerous citizens had appealed for permission to carry firearms to protect themselves against Mr. Ryan's dog. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Ryan a letter notifying him of the complaints about the dog.

Westminster Presbyterian Church.

In the morning (10.30) the service at Westminster Church to-morrow will be appropriate to "Palm Sunday."

In the evening (7.45) a John Knox service arranged by the Men's Club to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the great Scotchman's birth will be held. A special programme has been prepared, including an address by the pastor on the life and work of John Knox, Scotch songs, and the quaint old versions of the Psalms will be sung. All cordially invited.

THE WATER QUESTION

Still Under Discussion by Committees—No Definite Conclusions are Reached as to Recommending a Source of Supply—Members of the Board of Trade and Civic Union Committee Not Agreed—The Water Contract Expires on May 1.

Town Councilman Charles J. Murray is "opposed to this town resting under obligations to any water company for a supply of water pending the making of a new contract. The present water contract expires on May 1, and Mr. Murray's view of the matter is that on or before that date a new contract should be made. The taking advantage of extensions of time puts the town in a certain sense under obligations to the company that grants the favor.

Mr. Murray has not hesitated to declare his position on the water question, and he is ready to vote for the awarding of a contract.

Councilman Murray has the right view of the water question, but it is not likely that his views will prevail, unless the committees, whose report is now awaited, reach definite conclusions much speedier than Thursday night's joint conference indicated. It is true that the question with which the Board of Trade and Civic Union committees are considering is a large and important one, and does not permit of hasty work, if it is to be acted upon in a thorough manner. It is a matter of regret that the Board of Trade and Civic Union did not get to work earlier on the water supply question, in order that all preliminaries could be completed before May 1.

It is not a good thing for the town to accept favors from any corporation in the way of gratuitous extensions of contracts. It gives rise to all sorts of rumors. From all accounts the Board of Trade and Civic Union committees are working in conjunction, and are doing good work. Several sources of water supply have been personally visited and closely inspected, and much inquiry made as to the quality and quantity of water. Notwithstanding the amount of visiting, investigating and inquiry carried on by the two committees, it is understood that there is no likelihood of a unanimous report from the committee, and will not be if the committee's work is extended indefinitely. The best that can be expected is a majority and minority report.

Final action will rest with the Town Council, and if a choice between two reports is made incumbent upon that body, the probability is that the Council may reject both and act along independent lines. That will be a proper course to pursue if conflicting reports are submitted to the Council.

Dr. Flamer Home Again.

Rev. Dr. Arnold Flamer of the German Theological Seminary has returned from Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent three weeks in the work of soliciting funds for the seminary endowment fund and the Knox memorial fund. Dr. Flamer's mission was a successful one. It has been erroneously stated that he received one individual contribution of \$25,000. This statement was entirely unfounded, and originated in the Cincinnati papers. He, as well as his friends, would be undoubtedly pleased if it were true.

Dr. Flamer did, however, receive promises from a number of Cincinnatians guaranteeing subscriptions to the fund amounting to \$7,500. The sums contributed range from \$5 to \$2,500 each. There was but one of the latter, however. Dr. Flamer succeeded in gaining many friends for the seminary. He said that the new polyglot system of education appeals strongly to Presbyterian churches at large.

Union Services.

The pastors of the Bloomfield Evangelical Union have arranged for union services during Holy Week. The meetings will be held as follows:

Monday evening in the Baptist Church, when Rev. W. N. Giles of Summit will speak Tuesday in the Park M. E. Church, when Rev. C. F. Sitterly, D.D., of Drew Seminary will be the speaker. On Wednesday evening each church will hold its individual prayer meeting.

Thursday evening the meeting will be in the Westminster Church, and Rev. John R. Fisher, D.D., of the West Presbyterian Church, Newark, will speak; Friday evening at the First Presbyterian Church, when Rev. W. N. Giles will again speak. The public are urgently requested to attend these services and help make them successful.

Made Contractor Pay Damages.

In delivering pipes for the Belleville avenue sewer a teamster drove along the cobble gutter on the south side of the avenue. The ground was soft, and the wheels of the heavy truck played havoc with the gutter pavement. The contractor, an Italian, protested against payment, but the engineer held him responsible for the damages.

Seed potatoes and fertilizers at Frommel Bros.—4-6.

Worcester-Duncan.

Miss Alice Gerry Duncan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Duncan, of Park Place, and Henry Wynne Worcester were married Monday night, by Rev. George A. Paul, D.D. The bride, who was dressed in a gown of embroidered net, was given away by her father, Miss Florence G. Duncan a sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and was attired in pink net. She carried pink roses. The bridesmaids were the Misses Susan A. Worcester, of Detroit, Mich.; Mildred Jarvie, of Brooklyn; Emily and Helen Stout, of Wilmington, Del. They were dressed in white silk and carried bouquets of pink roses.

William J. Worcester, of Bloomfield, a brother of the groom, was best man, and the ushers were James N. Worcester, of Bloomfield, a brother of the groom; George Hopwood and Frederick Ulmer, of Brooklyn, Dr. William J. Turner of Montclair, Robert L. Johnstone and Frederick Ballard Williams, of Glen Ridge. A reception followed the ceremony at the home of the bride's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Worcester will reside in Brooklyn, after a trip to the South.

Those present at the reception were Mr. and Mrs. David D. Duncan, Mrs. Isabella Turner and Miss Turner of Montclair; James N. Jarvie, Miss Margaret Jarvie, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Oakes, Miss Mary Oakes, Dr. Charles H. Bailey, Miss Bessie Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Henry P. Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. John Newton, Mrs. William H. White, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Halsey M. Barrett, the Misses Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore H. Ward, Dr. Gertrude Ward, Miss Laura Ward, James C. Beach, Rev. and Mrs. George A. Paul, Rev. George L. Curtis, Miss Louise Dodd, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sutton, Dr. and Mrs. Harry E. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Van Liew, all of Bloomfield; Mr. and Mrs. Orton Brewer, Miss Brewer, Miss Helen Johnstone, Miss Margaret Johnstone, Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Thomas, and Miss Elsie Thomas, of Glen Ridge; Mrs. and Miss Gerry, of New York; and Frederick O. Fletcher of Brookline, Mass.

Jacobus-Spragg.

Miss Lilian Mabel Spragg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Spragg of this town, and George Willard Jacobus of Caldwell were married at the home of the bride's parents, 166 Thomas street, Wednesday night by the Rev. Dr. George A. Paul, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The parlor was decorated with palms and daffodils. The bride, who was attired in a lace robe over chiffon, was given away by her father. She carried a shower bouquet of roses and lilies of the valley. The bridesmaids were the Misses Florence S. and Gertrude M. Spragg, sisters of the bride, and they were dressed in lemon colored silk mulle, out on trains, and Miss Helen Haesler of Caldwell, a niece of the groom, was flower girl. She wore white point d'esprit, and carried a basket of white carnations. Arthur Biggs of Caldwell was the ring bearer. Frederick J. Farrington of Philadelphia was the best man, and T. Earle Rittenhouse of Jersey City and Albert E. Tuck of Newark were the ushers.

After the ceremony a large reception followed, in which the bride and groom received the congratulations of friends from New York, Brooklyn, the Oranges, Newark, Montclair and this town. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobus will reside in Newark.

New Organist for Westminster.

Dr. Clarence Howe has accepted the position of organist and choirmaster at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The Westminster Church has a wide reputation with musicians. Having a quartette composed of the best singers obtainable, a large chorus, also a splendid organ, artists' work has been the logical result.

Dr. Howe was one of the three organists from this State who were invited to give recitals upon the great organ in Festival Hall at the St. Louis Exposition. He is also expected to appear in recitals next summer in Buffalo, Sedalia and Kansas City.

Miss Henrietta Wright, for several years solo soprano at the Church of the Puritans, New York, will take the place of Mrs. Elizabeth Schaub, who goes to the Washington Avenue Baptist Church, Brooklyn. Clark Gibson Dalley, basso, succeeds Willard Roubaud, who, with J. Louis Miller, the former organist at Westminster, goes to South Park Presbyterian Church, Newark. Miss Florence Storkwell, contralto, and Paul F. Handel, tenor, have been re-engaged to sing in Westminster Church.

Glen Ridge Congregational Church.
To-morrow, Palm Sunday, the Rev. Elliott W. Brown, will preach from the text, "Jesus Weeping over Jerusalem," at the morning service in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church. In the evening the pastor's subject will be "John Knox," in commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the birth day of that noted divine.

At the annual meeting of the Congregational Church, Thursday night, Addison H. Haseltine and Morris G. Belmont were elected Deacons for the term of three years.

BASE-BALL.

BLOOMFIELD BASE-BALL CLUB VICTORIOUSLY OPENED THE SEASON.

Defeated the Liwellyns by a Score of 9 to 13—Return Game Between Same Clubs This Afternoon—High School Team Schedule Arranged for the Season—Other Base-Ball Notes.

The Bloomfield Base-Ball Club victoriously opened the season on the Williamson avenue grounds Saturday afternoon by defeating the Liwellyn Club of the Second Ward. The weather was not favorable to good base-ball playing, and numerous errors marred the game. Spectators were about evenly divided in their opinions as to the merits of the respective clubs.

There will be a return game this afternoon on the Williamson avenue grounds between the same clubs. The Second Ward sporting contingent was not by any means crushed last week by the defeat of their club, and they are looking for better results from to-day's game. The game will be called at half-past three o'clock.

The Liwellyns defeated the strong Cedar Athletic Club of Acquackanonk Sunday afternoon on the Spring Garden oval. The score was 13 to 5. Havens, the Liwellyn pitcher, struck out fourteen men.

The Bloomfield High School team played a preparatory game with the East Orange High School team Saturday afternoon. The Bloomfield boys underrated the strength of their opponents and allowed them too much lee-way, and lost the game by a score of 9 to 8. The home team kept an easy lead until the eighth inning, when a two-base hit by Haresey of East Orange gave that team the lead, and the Bloomfielders failed to overcome it.

The High School team met with its second defeat on Tuesday on the Forest Hill Club's grounds, at the hands of the Newark High School team, by a score of 16 to 6. The game was not a well-played one, and the weather was miserable.

The High School team's schedule for the season has been arranged as follows:

April 1, Dewitt Clinton High School at Bloomfield; April 8, East Orange High School at Bloomfield; April 11, Newark High School at Forest Hill; April 15, Stevens Institute Preparatory School at Hoboken; April 19, Orange H. S. at Bloomfield; April 22, Livingston High School at Livingston; April 26, Montclair High School at Montclair; April 29, Bloomfield F. C. at Bloomfield; May 3, South Orange High School at South Orange; May 6, Neptune High School of Ocean Grove at Bloomfield; May 9, Kearny High School at Kearny; May 13, East Orange High School at East Orange; May 17, Erasmus Hall at Flatbush; May 24, South Orange at Bloomfield; May 27, Kingsley M. A. at Essex Fells; May 31, Montclair High School at Bloomfield; June 3, M. M. A. at Montclair; June 5, Batlin High School at Elizabeth; June 10, Asbury Park High School at Asbury Park; June 17, Dewitt Clinton High School at New York.

The Newark Eastern League team shut out the Boston National League team on Wednesday. Hester pitched, and the Bostonians only got one hit off him.

The Watseasing team is playing practice games preparatory to the opening of the season on the Arlington avenue grounds on the 29th inst.

Break in Water Main.

An accident to the local water supply plant occurred Tuesday afternoon, which resulted in an enormous waste of water. Workmen in the employ of contractor Callahan were laying a twelve inch iron drain pipe across Glenwood avenue, to connect with the drain through M. Snyder's property, when a section of the pipe fell across the six-inch water main in the avenue and broke the latter. The immense stream of water occasioned a flood in the vicinity. Superintendent Powers was hastily summoned and shut off the water at Washington street on one side of the break and in front of Thomas Barter's office on the other side. As a consequence that section of Glenwood avenue between the Centre and the Lackawanna Railroad was without water supply for several hours.

Stopped Off too Soon.

Fezold Salomon, a shoemaker, of 174 Glenwood avenue, was slightly hurt in getting off a trolley car at the Centre Monday night. Salomon was on a car from Montclair, and instead of waiting until the car came to a stop at Washington street, he stepped off in the reverse order opposite Hopler's fish market. The result was that he was violently thrown to the ground and rolled a considerable distance along the road. His clothes were torn and his face skinned and bruised. Fezold was assisted to the police station by an officer and his wounds dressed there.

Seed potatoes and fertilizers at Frommel Bros.—4-6.

